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SPACE CENTER Roundup

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STS-95 features full slate of activities

By Kelly Humphries

At the end of this month, the first American to orbit the Earth once again will experience what it's like to be in space. But instead of being the bold explorer he was 36 years ago, he will be among the developers, the users, the exploiters of space.

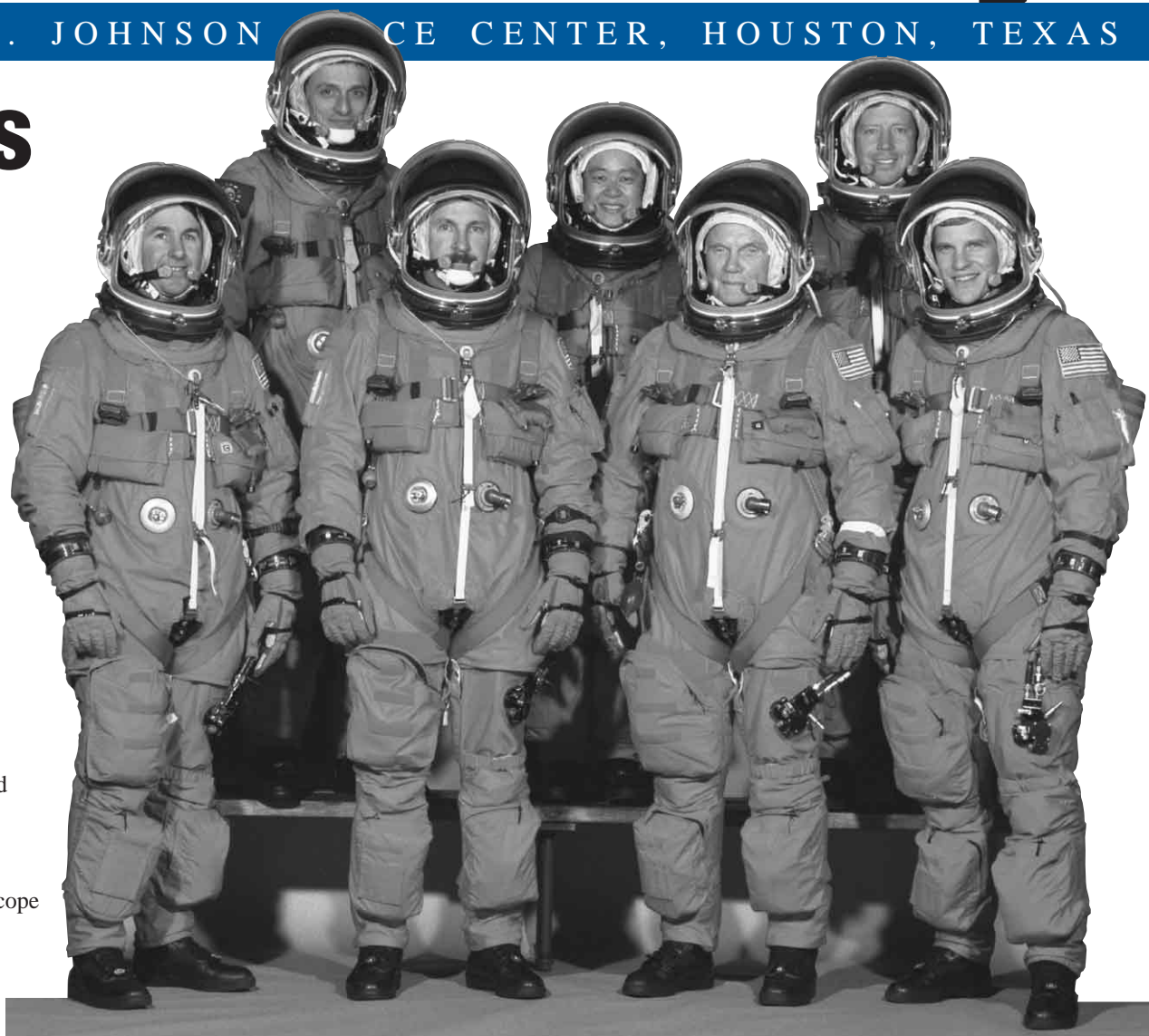
John Glenn will be leaving *terra firma* not as a lone pioneer with the hopes and Cold War fears of a generation riding on his shoulders, but as a member of a research team delving into the secrets of the universe and humanity's ability to tame them for its purposes.

Glenn will join STS-95 Commander Curt Brown, Pilot Steve Lindsey, Mission Specialists Scott Parazynski, Steve Robinson and Pedro Duque, and fellow Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai on a mission to deploy and retrieve a satellite that will study the Sun's corona and the solar wind, deploy a small Navy amateur radio satellite, test hardware to be used on the third Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission, conduct ultraviolet astronomy observations and work with a variety of in-cabin microgravity research projects.

During the nine-day mission, the astronauts also will support a series of investigations designed to better understand the correlation between the aging process on Earth and the physiological effects of space flight on the human body.

In short, STS-95 will stretch the capabilities of both the crew as researchers and the shuttle as a research platform. And it will do so with the whole world watching an American hero return

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JSC Photo S98-13388 by Mark Sowa

The STS-95 crew will have a full slate of activities to perform during *Discovery's* upcoming mission, including testing hardware to be used on the next Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission. Re-creating a famous Original 7 pose are (left to right, front): Steve Robinson, Curt Brown, John Glenn and Scott Parazynski; (left to right, back): Pedro Duque, Chiaki Mukai and Steve Lindsey.



NASA Photo

International Space Station Astronauts Carl Walz (left) and Jim Voss learn the operations of the Russian Soyuz spacecraft in a simulator at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia.

Space station crews training for initial flights

International Space Station Astronauts Carl Walz and Jim Voss are among 12 astronauts and cosmonauts now training for the first flights to live aboard the International Space Station for which the Soyuz spacecraft will serve as an emergency escape vehicle or lifeboat.

Voss, along with Astronaut Susan Helms and Cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, expedition commander, is scheduled to launch aboard Space Shuttle mission STS-100 in December 1999 on the second crew planned to occupy the new station. Walz, along with Astronaut Dan Bursch and Cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko, expedition commander, is scheduled to fly to the station aboard shuttle mission

STS-105 in June 2000 as the fourth crew to live on the ISS.

The space station crew members alternate training at JSC and in Star City as they prepare for their missions. The first crew for the station, Astronaut Bill Shepherd, expedition commander, and Cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, is planned to launch in July 1999. The first crew will spend five months aboard the space station.

The third crew for the station, Astronaut Kenneth Bowersox, expedition commander, and Cosmonauts Vladimir Dezhurov and Mikhail Turin, is scheduled to launch in March 2000. ■



Open House attracts record turnout.
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A new hit: swinging at the Gilruth.
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JSC Language Education Center opens.
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